

## INSIDE GERMANY

By FRANZ JOSEF SPAHN

*At present there are only a handful of people in East Asia who have seen the Europe of the last three years with their own eyes and who can tell us about conditions there from their personal experience. One of these is the author of the following article, who arrived in Tokyo from Berlin in 1943.*

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**I**T may happen that, in the fifth year of war, a person can travel third class in an express train from Munich to Berlin and spend the night stretched out on one of the benches because he is sharing his compartment with only one other traveler. But everyone will agree that this would be a very rare and very amazing exception. One is far more likely to see two exceedingly polite men offering each other a place on the second step on the outside of an express-train coach whose doors it is impossible to close because of the crowd in it. The victor in this polite contest gets a place on the third and lowest step. In the course of the journey he will generally be able to work his way into the interior of the coach, so that upon his arrival in Berlin he finds it hard to get out again. So he has had an opportunity to test for himself the validity of the motto: "Victory before travel," which stares at him from every railway station.

Traveling is real fun only if you are a soldier. In the leave train the soldiers are entirely among themselves, so that they can divide up the available space in the luggage rack, on the benches, and on the floor according to their own liking. But what they enjoy most are the troop transports to and especially from the front which cross the Continent rather leisurely but strictly according to schedule. For instance, after I was wounded I greatly enjoyed my journey in the hos-

pital train from Smolensk to Bad Ems. It lasted several days, but the long, airy hospital coaches with their well-sprung beds provided very pleasant surroundings. From our beds we could look through the train windows—the first windows we had seen for quite some time—out onto the passing scenery of Soviet Russia, the General-Gouvernement, and finally Germany herself. At the German frontier station we were given a festive reception. Women distributed parcels of food and cigarettes in the coaches and provided us with additional pillows and reading matter.

### RATIONS

I spent the winter of 1942/43 with my family in Berlin, as I had not yet entirely recovered from my wound. In October I decided, like almost all my compatriots, to store the potatoes to which I was entitled in my cellar. This meant that I had to fetch sixteen hundredweight (800 kilograms) of potatoes, the ration for a family of four, from the coal dealer who was in charge of the potato distribution in our district and carry them sack by sack to our cellar. We kept back the potato ration cards for another two persons in my household, first of all because we felt that sixteen hundredweight would see us through the winter and secondly because, if our potatoes should go bad, we wished to have these two coupons to fall back upon.

Almost at the same time we received eighty per cent of the coal briquettes to which we were entitled for the winter. The last twenty per cent were to be distributed in February and March. However, they were not distributed since the winter was very mild and the fuel consumption correspondingly low. The bread rations were increased at the beginning of the winter, as were the meat rations. The number of distribution centers for vegetables were increased, as the longest queues had always formed in front of the greengrocers. From then on, every flower shop and delicatessen store has also been selling vegetables. This did away with the queues, to the disappointment of those who like to stand in line; believe it or not, this type of person exists, and they enjoy their meals more when they have stood in a queue for them.

With skillful management one can get quite a lot of clothes for the 120 points on one's ration card. The smart ones buy two dresses and underwear with them. Stockings are not so popular: although one is entitled to seven pairs, they cost 37 points. Ration cards are more important today in Germany than money. Everyone has money, since the soldiers' families are amply provided for and even the poorest workmen generally have higher-paid jobs today than they had at the beginning of the war. On the other hand, the distribution of food rations is carried out with absolute impartiality, and only families with a lot of children are given preference. The coupon system has shown no flaws. Indeed, the population appreciates it when household goods, shoelaces, toothbrushes, etc., are included in the ration system. That to which one is entitled by one's coupon, one can be sure of getting. As for the dealer, this system allows him to know his exact turnover in advance, and he is allotted foodstuff and other rationed goods to the exact extent of the number of his registered customers. Of course, this obliges the housewife to buy from certain stores, so that she can no longer shop where she pleases.

The weekly rations to which every adult is entitled amount to about 3 kilograms of bread,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  kilos of potatoes,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kilos of vegetables, 250 grams of meat, 125 grams of butter in addition to more than 125 grams of margarine and fat, 125 grams of cheese, 100 grams of sugar, 125 grams of jam, 500 grams of cereal, 250 grams of coffee-substitute, and now and again one egg. Children get from a quarter to three quarters of a liter of milk a day in addition to this. Bachelors and other people living alone, for whom it is not worth preparing hot food for breakfast and supper, do not have enough to put on their bread; but a housewife with three small children has no food worries and can see to it that her family gets enough to eat as well as plenty of variety. A certain shortage has made itself felt in the supply of fats, where in the long run the rations have proved somewhat insufficient. Consequently, the advertisements for reducing tablets have disappeared from the newspapers. But the working ability of the population has so far not yet suffered from the point of view of diet.

The few doctors that have not yet been called up for the Army generally recommend more sleep even for healthy people, so as to enable the body, which has to work harder while it is not being supplied with more than the absolutely necessary food, to build up reserves of energy. The German people as well as the German soldiers have fortunately been spared plagues and epidemics during this war. This is not a coincidence but the result of careful diet and farsighted health measures as well as adequate medical attention, in spite of the shortage of doctors.

#### WORKERS AND SOLDIERS

The general public does not hear much from the vast armament plants around which the war-time life of Germany is concentrated. Now and again it is reported that one of the workmen has risen to the post of general manager. In one's own family and among one's friends, one often notices the rapid advance of in-

dustrial workers and engineers within their factories. Young men who had just completed their apprenticeship at the beginning of the war have already proved themselves so efficient in their expert work that they are able to take over the positions of responsibility offered in almost excessive numbers by the German industry in its new locations in Central Germany, the Protectorate, and the former Polish-controlled territories. The ten-hour day has become the rule, and industrial production has risen accordingly. Workmen with long hours are entitled to considerably larger rations than normal civilian consumers. If, in addition, they have to do heavy physical labor they receive additional rations.

In this respect they are treated similarly to the farmer who, as a producer, gets twice to three times the normal rations, and the soldier who, especially at the front, is entitled to the best in food that can be provided by the German economy. This does not always mean, especially in the case of the infantryman, that he actually gets the best food when he has to do his hardest fighting. The farther advanced a position is, and the more it is exposed to the enemy's artillery and infantry fire, the colder is the food and the smaller the portions of bread. But then days of rest are made use of to supply the troops with tinned goods and delicacies, with chocolate, honey, and coffee. Then, too, the bread is no longer moldy but fresh and crisp. It is at such times that the soldier is conscious of the care bestowed upon him by his country.

But still more important from the soldier's point of view is the quantity and quality of arms and ammunition sent up to the front. My own regiment had received a number of new weapons to be tested under actual war conditions at the front. Our veteran soldiers enthusiastically took charge of the automatic rifles, rifle grenades, and quick-firing machine guns. The fighting over, experiences were exchanged, and during rest periods makeshift shooting ranges were fixed up to enable us to give every possible basis for the opinion on the new arms which

was expected from us. We all wished to help safeguard the advantage held by German armaments over those of our enemy, an advantage we needed to be able to overcome the Soviet superiority in numbers.

The field-post letters, which reached us in huge quantities, very few ever going astray, provided us with a constant stream of news from home and showed us that, in spite of all the horrors of war, it was the little pleasures and anxieties of everyday life that continued to dominate the minds of those at home. We were told about minor worries and how they were dispelled with the aid of the Party and the authorities. The people from the offices and firms where we were employed did their best to look after our wives and families. In spite of the fact that the sending of parcels to the front was sometimes suspended for months, we were overwhelmed with little gifts. As letters were limited to 100 grams, the gifts intended for the men at the front were divided up into 100-gram lots. It often happened that a soldier got ten or twenty letters in a single field-post delivery. In fact, I once saw a man get fifty. We made him fetch them in lots of five from the company office; this seemed to us too much of an abuse of the field-post system.

#### MENTAL RELAXATION

Movies and other entertainment were provided for the troops even in the foremost lines. In a meeting hall lying a few kilometers behind the front, we were shown the film . . . *Reitet für Deutschland*. Although the performance was by no means perfect as to sound and screening, it was for us, who had been fighting for months in a region devastated by war, a miraculous glimpse of home and the artistic endeavors of the people there.

On the other hand, the people at home flock to the newsreels, which to them are more important than the main pictures or the shorts shown in the same program. Germany's movie production is now limited more or less to high-

standard films of an entertaining and national character. What can be done to entertain people in a dignified sense is provided chiefly by means of films. There is no question of dancing during the war. Amusement centers are closed, and restaurants with music have only very little to offer in the way of food. Hence the theaters, which have a similar task to fulfill as the films, always play to full houses. The audience is chiefly composed of soldiers; they can obtain tickets more easily than ordinary mortals, who must stand in line for many hours early on Sunday morning to get a ticket. No matter what is shown, it always meets with the audience's approval; obviously, people are happy to be carried away by the spell of the stage and forget grim reality for two or three hours.

Books are greatly in demand and hard to get. The war years have seen more new publications than many a prewar year. The appearance of the books is still surprisingly good. The whole edition is usually distributed in advance to the Army, public libraries, bureaus of information, and scientific institutions at home and abroad as well as to the libraries of the local Party organizations abroad. Nowadays it is often easier to buy a popular German book in Brussels than in a bookstore in Germany. Editions themselves have also increased in size enormously during the war.

Under these conditions, lectures and recitations by authors and poets continue to arouse great interest. Many soldiers have become very fond of lyrical poetry. In it, the experience of this war has found its first expression. When, for instance, the poet Hymmen, who lost his eyesight in this war, recites his verses about the war and the powers struggling in it, about the fate of the soldier, about duty and heroism, he grips the hearts of his comrades and gives their own experiences a lofty interpretation which helps them to forget much of their pain and horror.

#### THE SPIRIT OF THE FRONT

The utmost is demanded from the individual soldier on the Eastern Front but

also from the men fighting on the other fronts. Although the fighting is almost always against unequal odds, never did I hear a word of doubt about the victory of the German Army. When the Führer took over the supreme command of the Army himself, the ordinary soldiers told each other that their food and clothing would now become better, as the Führer himself would look after these things. It is a fact that the Führer has taken a personal interest in outposts that were particularly hard to supply, and that he always asked for reports on the proper supply of food and ammunition to them, although in these places sometimes only a few hundred German soldiers were holding out against violent attacks. The harder the fight became, the nearer did the Führer seem to be to the soldiers.

Ideas which appeared new and perhaps exaggerated or even improbable when we had attended our first National-Socialist meetings at home, proved their worth and were taken for granted in the fighting at the front. Here it was necessary for every man to do his duty. Here, the more rights a man had, the more he was expected to accomplish; the officer was expected to set an example by his life and his death. Those who wanted to rely on their men had to gain their affection and confidence. They had to look after them and see to strict impartiality in the distribution of their food and equipment. Who is there out there whose life has not been saved over and over again by his comrades? When death seems inevitable to the soldier, his solace is in the unbowed comrade at his side, who holds out unshaken and is perhaps even able to relieve the situation by a caustic joke.

The fact that the nation is ensuring itself of the best in leadership can be seen from the new regulations applying to the selection of officers issued by the Führer. He is interested principally in men who are impervious to crises, men who have conquered the most difficult situations under dire stress. Education and family are only of secondary importance. The German nation possesses

born leaders among all its social strata. It is these men who bear in their hearts the unshakeable belief in Germany's future, in her victory. These men are filled entirely by the ideas of National-Socialism. After the war, these are the men who will carry on these ideas and lead them to their fulfillment in Germany.

#### NEW IMPRESSIONS

Not only in the Soviet "paradise" but also in France, Norway, Greece, and many other countries of Europe, these National-Socialist soldiers have had their eyes opened. Before the war, most of them had never been beyond Germany's borders. Thus many a condition, many national characteristics, struck them with particular force when they took their German spirit and German life with them into the occupied areas. On the French farms in which my men were billeted they were first looked at with misgivings. During a longer stay, however, relations soon became more friendly. Since the German soldier was courteous to the population and since the officers always saw to strict discipline, our troops were soon respected in all the countries of Europe, even though, by their very presence, they continued to remind the population that the war was not over yet.

The German soldier showed particular interest in conditions among the working class in the European countries he was occupying. The fact that conditions in the Soviet Union, especially among the rural population, were terrible, requires no explanation. But nowhere in Europe was he able to find satisfactory social conditions. The cramped, often neglected living quarters of the European laborers, the state of health of their families, their clothing, their wages, their training, all this could not bear comparison with what had been accomplished in Germany. The soldier began to feel himself to be a member of a nation in which even the simple laborer is a man of esteem with political rights.

In the occupied areas it was the simple people who responded more quickly and

more honestly to the German troops than the educated middle classes. The latter were filled with the old social prejudices, the old chauvinism, and often also with religious antipathy toward the allegedly heathenish Nazis. In his contacts with the former, the German soldier had often to counter Marxist ideologies and propaganda directed against the Führer. On the whole, he found a surprising lack of understanding for Germany. Germany's political demand for a united Europe to oppose the Bolshevik attack was slow in gaining ground. It was easier to justify economic collaboration, which has opened up vast possibilities of profitable employment to the European nations.

#### THE FARMERS

Those who can spend their leave in the country do well to take chocolate, coffee, and tobacco with them. The farmer does not have to worry about his daily bread—he is far more concerned over the question of labor. If he happens to be an elderly man who had already handed over the work to his son, he can now take a hand himself again. Often enough, he has also been ordered to supervise other farms whose owners have been called up. On one big estate I found, besides the elderly owner, only one German dairyman for the seventy cows, one German stableman for the twenty horses, and one German forester. The garden was looked after by Frenchmen. In the stables the work was done by Poles. The smithy was also in the hands of Frenchmen. All the rest of the work in the fields, woods, and farmyard was done by Russian prisoners of war, who were billeted in the former quarters for the farm hands and who were guarded by two gendarmes. The chicken and vegetables were placed under the care of the owner's family. In spite of all this, the estate was in perfect shape. The owner's son, the last survivor of three brothers and now with a railway anti-aircraft unit in some other part of Germany, only got leave to help his old father at rare intervals. It is easy to imagine that the work to be done in these circumstances by the farmers' wives



who have to take their husbands' places often taxes their strength to its utmost limit.

During the Great War it was customary to go out into the country to supplement one's rations with rural produce. In the present war there can hardly be anything of this kind. A stable supplying large quantities of milk is paid a premium, and this premium is so high that it would not be worth while to make butter for the black market. Home production of butter is prohibited, and the farmers get their butter from the dairy. If a stable supplies too little milk, the authorities investigate to see whether the fodder produced by the farm is insufficient. The stable is then ordered to deliver up a corresponding number of cows to be slaughtered. Thus it is in the owner's own interest to produce as much milk as possible.

Where the quantities of products harvested prove insufficient, the owners run the danger of having a supervisor appointed to their farm. Poultry farms must deliver sixty eggs per annum for every chicken. If on checking the number of chickens the authorities discover that it exceeds the number registered, the surplus chickens must be surrendered. Those farmers supplying poultry for slaughtering receive premiums which rise considerably with the amount of poultry supplied. In addition to such measures, the German Farmers' Organization constantly reminds the farmers that his honor forbids him to sell on the black market, as it is the workers and soldiers who would suffer most from such activities, their means not permitting them to buy at black-market rates.

#### WORK AND MORE WORK

What is the situation among the workers? Of course, there will be elements in every large factory who grumble and start to slacken their efforts in view of the long hours. But the vast majority of workers are more than loyal and conscientious. As a result, the quality of arms and ammunition has risen, as has also the quantity. When one rides in

one of the overcrowded trams during shift-changing time, one sees a type of person who hardly permits himself any free time. Neatly dressed, with a brief case under his arm, the German laborer rides to his factory, where he changes clothes to spare his good suit. In the tram he reads his morning paper for news from the fronts. Veterans of the Great War offer their explanations. The deeds of the men with high decorations are followed with admiration, and the portraits of some of our most successful soldiers are studied. The men tell each other about their sons or brothers at the Eastern Front. Although it is sometimes bitter to know that a member of one's family is involved in the terrible fighting there, everyone feels proud of being connected in this way with one of the defenders of the country.

If necessary, these men and their foreign colleagues work as much as twelve to fourteen hours a day. In such cases they sleep in dormitories provided by the factory, in order not to waste time on the way to and from their homes. The tanks and long-range guns, the bombers and locomotives, for which these long hours were required, arrive at the front with jokes and cheery messages chalked on their sides. All that can be done for the men at the front is being done.

#### THE YOUNGER GENERATION

The young people of Germany are not pressed to work prematurely in the factories: they are given time to pass through a proper apprenticeship. The Government intends them to receive a good training, since it is efficient expert workers that are needed more than anything else. In their health and vigor, our young boys and girls present an entirely different aspect from the younger generation of the Great War. Strict police regulations see to it that they are not tempted to loaf around in beer halls and bars. Boys and girls under eighteen are not allowed to loiter on the streets and squares after dark. Their place in the evenings is with their families, where they are supposed

to help their mothers, who have a difficult enough time as it is.

Many of the households with three or more small children, which are entitled to a servant, must now be satisfied with a fourteen- or fifteen-year-old girl. In spite of their youth, these girls, who have just left school and are doing their compulsory year of labor service, show a fine sense of duty. One of these girls proved an excellent aid to my wife, diligently looking after our three children, taking care of some of my wife's shopping, cleaning up the rooms, helping in the kitchen, etc. Not until she had been with us for several months did we find out that her father had been in prison, that her mother was notorious for her laziness, and that the girl herself had been placed under the supervision of the youth board. But it was not only this child who revealed a pronounced sense of duty: her brother had joined an army storm detachment as a volunteer, while her sister was devotedly nursing her husband, who had lost both his legs.

It was a joy to hear the boys and girls tell about their experiences in the land service of the Hitler Youth, during which they often helped with the harvesting on farms in the new territories of the Reich. They themselves are an inspiration to the German population in these border regions. At the age of sixteen, schoolboys are conscripted for air-defense work. As a rule, they are employed as messengers and ammunition carriers for the antiaircraft defense of their own towns. They live in barracks under military discipline, but their school work continues. When they reach military age, after having done their labor service, most of them apply for the active officers' career.

Total war does not stop at the mothers of these boys. Women who have less than two children under fourteen years of age or no children under six were conscripted for labor. This took place immediately after the fall of Stalingrad, when the entire German nation realized the seriousness of its task. Since the beginning of the war, countless women

have taken the places in the armament industry which their husbands had to give up when they became soldiers. I can confirm that many women whom I would never have credited with such a sense of duty willingly followed the call to work.

#### MILLIONS OF FOREIGNERS

The work of these women has saved Germany the necessity of employing hundreds of thousands of additional foreign laborers, whose number already amounts to twelve million in Germany. If one happens to be using a tram or a bus at a time when foreign workmen are going from their camps to the factories, one might imagine oneself to be in France or Croatia, or wherever these men come from. On Sundays, one hardly sees any Germans at all now on the main thoroughfares of some German cities, but crowds of foreigners instead. Among them the Eastern Europeans form the majority; most of them come from the Ukraine and are regarded as excellent workers.

The authorities are fully aware of the fact that the presence of millions of foreign men in Germany with the simultaneous absence of millions of German men engenders certain problems. Liaisons between these foreigners and German girls are considered undesirable, and everything is done to occupy the foreigners during their leisure time as, for instance, by means of sports and by performances of entertainers from their own countries. What they are offered in Germany in the way of food, wages, and lodging is far more than many of them were accustomed to in their native countries. Consequently no strikes or riots among the foreign laborers have become known so far. Even the law courts are but rarely troubled by criminal elements among the foreigners. The work of these foreigners in the armament factories, where they vie with their German colleagues, is often beyond all praise. These men and their comrades in the legions of Europe fighting in the German Army are the friends of Germany and believe in the idea of a new Europe.

These foreigners have also shown an exemplary spirit during air raids. They have often had to bear hard losses in these raids, as the barracks in which they are quartered naturally offer less protection against bombs than four- or five-storied apartment houses. However, everything has been done to provide for their protection by the construction of dugouts and shelters.

#### AIR RAIDS DAY AND NIGHT

In the Rhineland and Ruhr district, the frequent air-raid alarms every day have already become a matter of routine. In Cologne, where there was still much activity in the center of the city in spite of the havoc wrought by the air raids, I was often surprised by the fact that no one seemed to pay any attention to the air-raid warnings. Life continued undisturbed in the offices, shops, and streets. The population could tell from the type of warning that only a nuisance raider was approaching and not a large bombing squadron. So they took a chance that a bomb might fall on the wrong place. At night, two or three alarms must be reckoned with in these areas. If one gets up every time to go to the shelter, one loses a lot of sleep, especially if the shelter is not in one's own house. In the shelter itself there is usually semi-darkness. On wooden benches, deck chairs, and comfortable armchairs, the people try to go on sleeping. The children are put to bed in a special shelter that is kept quite dark. The occupants of an apartment house get to know each other better and learn consideration for others. The experience of danger shared is a uniting bond, and this places them on a similar footing with the soldiers at the front.

During one night raid, more than a hundred people, among them myself, were working together to save a house from the approaching fire. Most of the voluntary helpers were women and adolescents; the few men were mostly soldiers on leave. In the morning, when the fire brigade—which had been occupied during the night at more important points—

quickly brought our labors to a successful end, I congratulated a woman, who had been indefatigable in carrying water beside me all night, on her house having been saved now. She replied that she lived two blocks away and had got up to help here. If her house should ever catch fire, she said, she would also not be able to rely entirely on herself but would be dependent on her neighbors. As the behavior of the German people during the air raids has shown, National-Socialism has not been teaching the German nation in vain that it could only be united and strong if everyone were ready to do his bit for his neighbor.

#### TRUE SOCIALISM

Every German is equally exposed to the Anglo-American bombs, and every German takes an equal share in combating their effect. While helping to save a burning house, Dr. Ley, the head of the German Labor Organization, received injuries to his head; and in the Berlin suburb of Dahlem, Field Marshal von Bock appeared in full uniform to help salvage a neighbor's house from fire. No more differences are made between classes in Germany, except that particular attention is paid that the relatives of prominent personalities do not attempt to exploit their position. While during the labor conscription in the spring of 1943 all other women were allowed to express their preference for the type of work they wished to do, the wives of high officials, officers, and Party leaders were without exception allotted to armament factories as workers.

The police have almost disappeared from the streets of Germany, for the German people have made it easy for the Party and the Government to lead them. They show full co-operation in the enhancing of war efforts, in providing sufficient labor, and in working for victory. On the other hand, the leaders of the nation endeavor to lighten the burden of the people by appropriate measures. Party and Government see to it that the entire German nation remains united with its leaders and their ideas. The



newspapers, the radio, the newsreels, and the meetings of the National-Socialist Party, all serve this purpose.

Even difficult situations are made known to the German people with a frankness which has become a principle in the course of the war. It is not essential for everyone to know everything in this war. It would be the first war in which the military leaders sought to make public their entire knowledge of the situation. The communiqués of the High Command and the other reports from the front give account of completed actions in addition to outlining conditions at the front. In his weekly articles in the periodical *Das Reich*, Dr. Goebbels discusses those problems which affect the German public most. Indeed, we soldiers have always repudiated those war correspondents who send home melodramatic reports of the fighting at the front. We have become simple in Germany, and we feel reverence for the sacrifices made by our dead comrades and for the fate that permitted us to live on so that we may fight on. These are feelings that are not suited for effusive press reports.

The home front is striving to show the men at the battle front that they need not worry about what is going on at

home, about the armaments industry and about their relatives at home. At my office there was a charwoman whose son was a young lieutenant leading a company of sappers at Kholm while that town was cut off from the German lines. She knew that her son, of whom she naturally felt very proud, was in constant danger. But she was always cheerful and maintained that she never worried: her son and his men would get through somehow. And indeed, mother and son—who had meanwhile been awarded the German Cross in Gold—came to see me, radiant with happiness, after Kholm had been relieved.

Every German knows that his enemies are pursuing counterpropaganda. He regards this as only natural from their point of view, and he is determined not to assist them in their war of nerves against Germany by spreading rumors or listening to enemy broadcasts. The German cannot be shaken in his confidence by false reports and counterpropaganda. He knows that the other side would give anything to have an Adolf Hitler. But it is the German people who have him and who will gain final victory with him, no matter how difficult this may prove.

### *Transportable Runways*

The war has produced the first transportable runways for the rapid erection of airfields in the open country. The runways, which are needed by heavy planes for taking off and landing, consist of a wire net about fifty meters wide and a thousand meters long. It is composed of numerous strips and pieces which can easily be rolled up and transported.

The tightly stretched wire net reacts to the wheels of the plane like the mesh of a tennis racket to the tennis ball. The wire net possesses the added advantage that it camouflages itself, as the grass can go on growing up through the holes of the mesh. As a result, the many airfields which have been set up according to this system are hard to detect from the air. Incidentally, the wear and tear on the rubber of the airplane wheels is much less than that caused by concrete runways, where heavy bombers must change tires after ten landings.